

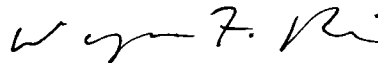
REMARKS

In response to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences' affirmation of the Examiner's final rejection of claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. §134 over claims 1-45 of U.S. Patent No. 6,999,949, issued February 14, 2006, Applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination and a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection over a Prior Patent.

For all the above reasons, Applicants maintain that the claims of the subject application define patentable subject matter and earnestly request allowance of claims 1-48.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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